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**File No. 08-1990-1928**

## Division of Medical Quality

**BEFORE THE  
DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY  
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Petition for  
Termination of Probation of:

WILLARD S. BRIDWELL, M.D.,

Petitioner.

Case No. 20-2002-132885

OAH No. L2002050758

**PROPOSED DECISION**

On July 16, 2002 Administrative Law Judge Timothy S. Thomas, Office of Administrative Hearings, heard this matter in Los Angeles, California.

Mia Perez-Castille, Attorney at Law, represented the Office of the Attorney General.

Willard S. Bridwell, M.D., represented himself.

The matter was submitted on July 16, 2002.

**FACTUAL FINDINGS**

1. The Medical Board of California (hereinafter the board) issued Physician's and Surgeon's License number A-10593 to Willard S. Bridwell (hereinafter petitioner) on September 18, 1944.

2. On February 12, 1987 petitioner was the anesthesiologist for patient C.H. at Hanford Community Hospital. While C.H. was under general anesthesia petitioner failed to properly monitor the patient's condition, in that he failed to notice the non-action of the ventilator bellows and failed to personally observe the patient's cyanosis until the surgeon pointed it out to him.

3. On or about May 21, 1991 the board filed an Accusation against petitioner, alleging gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in relation to his treatment of patient C.H.

4. On or about October 2, 1991 petitioner signed a Stipulation, agreeing to the stayed revocation of his license, effective March 8, 1992. The terms of his probation, which was imposed for an unlimited period of time, prohibited him from all patient contact, examination, diagnosis and treatment. The probationary terms further required that petitioner continue to comply with continuing medical education requirements, obey all laws, submit quarterly reports, comply with the board's surveillance program and appear in person for interviews upon request.

5. In October of 1988 petitioner became certified by the American Board of Quality Assurance Utilization Review Physicians, and retired from clinical practice. Between 1990 and December of 2000 petitioner worked as a Medical Consultant for the MediCal program. He retired from this and all employment in December 2000.

6. Petitioner has complied with all terms of his probation for the last ten years, and his petition complies in all respects with section 2307 of the Business and Professions Code. He is 84 years of age and has no intention of returning to the practice of medicine. Petitioner seeks termination of probation for the sole purpose of placing his license into "inactive-retired" status absent the stigma of probation. The 1991 discipline resulted from the only complaint made to the board in petitioner's many years of practice.

#### LEGAL CONCLUSIONS

1. A person whose certificate has been revoked or suspended or who has been placed on probation may petition the Division of Medical Quality for reinstatement or modifications of penalty, including termination of probation, after a period of at least two years for early termination of probation of three years or more. (Business and Professions Code section 2307b.)

2. The administrative law judge may consider all activities of the petitioner since the disciplinary action was taken, the offense for which he was disciplined, his rehabilitative efforts, his general reputation for truth and his professional ability. (Business and Professions Code section 2307c.)

3. The administrative law judge may recommend the imposition of any terms and conditions deemed necessary. (Business and Professions Code section 2307c.)


4. Good cause exists to grant this petition on condition that petitioner does not practice medicine again and immediately takes action necessary to place his license in "inactive-retired" status.

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ORDER

Willard S. Bridwell, M.D., 's Petition for Penalty Relief is granted. The probationary status hereinbefore imposed on California Surgeon's and Physician's Certificate No. A10593 is terminated on condition that petitioner does not engage in the practice of medicine and immediately places his license on "inactive-retired" status.

DATED: July 25, 2002

  
TIMOTHY S. THOMAS  
Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings